



Soldiers to Super Stars!

See Page 3



Hot TOPICS

See Page 20

Index

- Viewpoint • Page 5
- Chaplain • Page 9
- MWR News • Page 12
- Community Events • Page 13
- Sports and Leisure • Page 15

The Signal



Friday, October 14, 2005

Published for the Department of Defense and the Fort Gordon community

Vol. 25, No. 41

News UPDATE

Town Hall meeting

There is a Town Hall meeting for all active duty, family members and civilians at 6 p.m. **Oct. 27** in the North Ballroom of The Gordon Club.

The meeting is hosted by the Garrison commander; suggested discussion topics may be sent in advance to buchholz@gordon.army.mil. Child care provided on site; reservation required. Call 791-3752.

Soldier Show

The Soldier Show is 8 p.m. **Saturday** and 6 p.m. **Sunday** at Alexander Hall.

Admission is free on a first-come basis; plan to arrive early.

Awards ceremony

The installation quarterly awards ceremony will be held at 8:30 a.m. **Oct. 27** in the lobby of Conrad Hall. The ceremony will honor the following individuals:

Servicemember of the Quarter (third quarter): Spc. Jennifer Buttermore (Co. A, 206th MI Bn.)

Volunteer of the Month (May): Capt. Brian Koyn (Religious Support Office)

Servicemember of the Quarter (fourth quarter): Spc. Joey Przytycki (Co. D, 201st Task Force)

Noncommissioned Officer of the Quarter (fourth quarter): Staff Sgt. Samuel Fairbank (Co. B, 447th Sig. Bn.)

Instructor of the Quarter (fourth quarter): Staff Sgt. Michael January (Co. A, 369th Sig. Bn.)

Cook of the Quarter (fourth quarter): Spc. Dianna Royal (HHC, 202nd MI Bn.)

Civilian of the Quarter (fourth quarter): Phillip Sines (Office Chief of Signal)

Volunteer of the Month (July): Kristine Woodbury (Family Readiness Group, 202nd MI Bn.)

Volunteer of the Month (August): Retired Sgt. Maj. William Myles (Religious Education Center)

Volunteer of the Month (September): Sarah Ebey (Army Community Service)

In addition to these awards, retention and various other awards will be presented. For information, call Linda Means at 791-1871.



CFC update

The 2005 Combined Federal Campaign is underway.

As of Tuesday, 2,169 contributors have donated 284,690.64. The goal for 2005 is \$360,000. The campaign ends today.

Shoot, don't shoot

New training system coming online here

Charmain Z. Brackett

Contributing writer

A new tool to keep marksman skills sharp should be arriving at Fort Gordon next month.

Engagement Skills Trainer 2000, or EST 2000, is a portable small arms training system, which utilizes computer simulations to help both basic and advanced marksmen, said Tom Fitzpatrick, garrison operations manager.

"We're looking forward to it," he said. "Right now, we're using antiquated techniques."

While it won't completely eliminate the need for actual range training, the virtual system will allow more Soldiers to train at one time and will allow for on-the-spot corrections, he said. The virtual system uses real, but modified weapons.

Soldiers can train on a variety of weapons from pistols to grenade launchers. Most of the weapons Soldiers at Fort Gordon will train on will be the M-series of

weapons.

"They have the same weight, feel and look. The sound and recoil are there," he said.

The only thing missing are the bullets and smell of gunpowder.

The lack of ammunition is a cost saving measure as well. Each of the computer simulators has five lanes so that five Soldiers could train at one time.

Capability for 30 lanes will be available next month with another 30 arriving in November 2006.

Some of the lanes will be distributed to the brigades; however, about 20 will be housed in a 30-foot by 80-foot metal framed building which will be constructed at the corner of 12th Street and North Range Road.

Fitzpatrick said he anticipated ground breaking on the site in the next few months and the building to be completed by summer.

Another 20 lanes will be added when they arrive next year.

Not only does the simulator have the capability to train Soldiers individually, but Soldiers across the globe could train together on scenarios with Fort Gordon Soldiers.

Fitzpatrick gave a fictional example of military police being deployed to Iraq. Before they left, the MPs could rehearse scenarios and exchange tactics via the system with MPs in Iraq; thereby saving training time and being better prepared once they arrived.

The EST 2000 also has a shoot/don't shoot mode.

Computer simulators are a big part of the future of training.

"It's a great thing for these computer savvy kids," he said.

And they already know how to work the collaborative end of the piece as they play games online, he said.

Fitzpatrick said he expects more computer simulation programs, including a combat lifesaver training simulator, to arrive within the next two to three years.



Photo by Sgt. Daniel Ramos

Purple Heart awarded

Sgt. James Quinn, Company B, 297th Military Intelligence Battalion, received the Purple Heart Oct. 11 in a ceremony behind the 513th MI Brigade headquarters. All Quinn remembers was "a sensory blank" after the improvised explosive device went off June 8 next to the vehicle he and three others were traveling in in Baghdad. "I thought we all died, but then I began to smell the smoke," Quinn said. He and two other Soldiers survived the attack, but the driver was killed. Maj. Gen. Gary Speer, Third Army deputy commanding general, presented the award.

Testing moving towards 100 percent

Tammy Moehlman

Signal staff

A Department of Defense program implemented in 1986 is being expanded to include more personnel.

The Department of Defense requires random drug testing of civilian employees who hold critical safety or security positions. The program began in September 1986, when President Ronald Reagan signed an executive order. The goal is to create a drug free workplace and offer assistance to employees abusing drugs.

Currently it is required that 50 percent of employees, in testing designated positions, be screened annually through random selection. The plan is to move to a 100 percent testing. Employees in designated positions must sign a testing agreement as a condition of employment.

"What I have is a list of what they call testing designated positions. Out of those people I have a program which is used to randomly select (from) that pool, and whenever I decide to select the computer automatically does its magic and spits me out a percentage or a number that I request to test that

month," said Rhonda Williams, Fort Gordon installation biochemical testing coordinator.

"Currently there is almost 700 TDPs on Fort Gordon and out of that I have to test about, on average, two a day...Although, I may not do them every day," said Williams. "You have to do 50 percent of those annually," added Keith Clum, Alcohol and Drug Control Officer.

The group to be tested include law enforcement personnel authorized to carry or have access to firearms or are embedded in drug interdiction positions.



Courtesy graphic

Also listed are national security employees with top secret clearance or have access to sensitive information. Other groups include those in the personnel reliability program that hold nuclear or chemical related jobs, individuals in firefighting or rescue, people who work with munitions or explosives, or handle electroplating critical aircraft parts.

The final group is public health and safety employees; a category that has added medical command specific positions to the list of those being tested. MEDCOM specific positions that were added in August

2003 are physicians and physician assistants, nurses and nursing assistants, physical therapists, pharmacists, podiatrists, dentists, dental hygienists, and a variety of technicians and technologists.

Individuals selected for testing have two hours to arrive for testing, otherwise they are listed as drug positive. They are also listed as drug positive if they refuse testing. If anyone does test positive they are removed from their position and they can seek help through the employee assistance program and referred to a treatment program. If and when they complete the treatment they can return to their old job if it is still available.

"One of the things they don't seem to understand is just because I pull their name today, and they come in and test today, tomorrow they have the exact equal chance of getting pulled again," said Williams.

"That's the beauty of the thing; everybody needs to think that everyday out of the year it could be their day to donate. That creates a deterrent," said Clum. "I hear a lot of them say this is a good idea, we should be drug free and held to a higher standard."

Hispanic influence woven throughout society

Charmain Z. Brackett

Contributing writer

The term "Hispanic" carries an umbrella over a large and diverse group of people.

"More than 39 million people call themselves Hispanic," said Gail Fitzpatrick, keynote speaker at the 15th Signal Brigade's Hispanic Heritage Month program Oct. 6 at Alexander Hall. "They are from Spain, South America, Central America and Mexico."

With 22 countries from which Hispanic people hail from, there are a wide array of cultures and flags associated with the name.

Fitzpatrick, a native of

Puerto Rico who moved to New Jersey when she was 7, honored those Americans with Hispanic roots and wove their accomplishments into the program's theme of "Strong and Colorful Threads in the American Fabric."

She spoke of their contributions to different fields of endeavor, giving each field a color, and when she was finished, the colors, she said, came together as the fabric of one big quilt.

"A quilt comes in different colors, shapes and threads," she said.

In the business realm or the green patch in the quilt were people like Robert Goizueta, who was the chief

executive officer of the Coca Cola Co. Pink represented sports and entertainment and included Freddie Prinz and Anthony Quinn.

The brown patches in the quilt represented science and the contributions of individuals such as Mario Molina who won the 1995 Nobel Prize for his research on chlorofluorocarbons and their destruction of the ozone layer.

Yellow represented the bravery exhibited by many including firefighters who risked their lives to return to the World Trade Centers after Sept. 11, 2001. Purple was for those in government including Bill Richardson, who served as governor of New Mexico.

Orange was for the Hispanic women who touched all the areas from entertainers such as Rita Moreno to those women raising their children.

The final quilt square was red, white and blue representing the men and women who served their country including the 28 Hispanic Medal of Honor recipients.

Fitzpatrick, the wife of garrison operations manager Tom Fitzpatrick, has spent more than 20 years volunteering in Army related organizations such as Army Community Service, and has been an instructor with Army Family Team Building since its beginnings.

She is a core instructor

with the program and one only of three Spanish speaking core instructors.

Fitzpatrick has taught AFTB not only in the United States but has traveled to nations such as Colombia, Guatemala and El Salvador to spread the concept and help the allies of the United States.

Hispanic heritage month is from Sept. 15 through Saturday.

Sept. 15 is the anniversary of independence for five Latin American countries including Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. Mexico declared its independence on Sept. 16 and Chile did so on Sept. 18.

Retirees always ‘family’

Kristy Davies

Signal staff

Leaving the military does not separate you from the military. More than 600 retirees, spouses and survivors discovered they are still part of the Army family during Fort Gordon’s Retiree Appreciation Day Oct. 7.

A day of education and awareness was held at Darling Hall including an information fair with booths and tables, along with seminars. Seminars were presented on various subjects including assisted living, memory loss, medical, dental, identity theft, diabetes, fitness and special compensation.

The event was held to recognize military retirees and to provide retirees and their families with the opportunity to learn more about their benefits, visit the installation, socialize and network.

“I’ve been to (a retiree day) before at Patrick Air Force Base, but this has been much more informative,” said retired Sgt. 1st Class Donald Reed, who spent more than 20 years in the Signal Corps. Reed traveled from Okeechobee, Fla., for the event.

“This is the first time I’ve attended,” added retired Maj. James Holland. “This is a great thing they have here.”

Display booths were also available to provide information on pet therapy, therapeutic massage, breast cancer awareness, nutrition care, bone density screenings and a risk for falls assessment.

Participants included Augusta Lynx, Augusta Chamber of Commerce, Department of Finance and Accounting Services, Social Security Administration, TRICARE,



Photo by Steve Brady

Sgt. Audry Webb, Company B, Eisenhower Army Medical Center, gives retired Maj. Billy Bob Pinkerton a flu shot Friday at the Retiree Appreciation Day.

legal, Veterans Affairs and Army Career and Alumni Program.

In the evening, a retiree appreciation dinner was held at the Gordon Club with retired Lt. Gen. John Dubia, co-chair of the Chief of Staff of the Army’s Retiree Council, as the guest speaker.

“The most important part is to get in-

formation out to the retirees and let them know (we are) here for them,” said Hillary Boyce, retirement services officer and transition center branch chief for RCI, Inc.

The event was hosted by the Fort Gordon Retiree Council, Eisenhower Army Medical Center and Military Personnel Services Division.

OCS association reunites, remembers

Charmain Z. Brackett

Contributing writer

As they closed out their reunion, members of the Fort Gordon Officer Candidate School Association remembered those they served with at a wreath laying ceremony at Freedom Park Sunday.

“It’s always an honor to participate in this ceremony to remember our fallen comrades,” said retired Maj. Robert Kerns, association president.

Association members placed four wreaths at the park. Three of the wreaths went to remember those who fought in World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War. The fourth honored an association member, Jim Katsos, who recently died in an accident.

Retired Lt. Col. Patrick Copeland recited a few lines that he said represented Katsos’ life, and if those gathered would live them, it would honor Katsos’ memory.

“Listen quick; speak slow; be slow to anger. You can’t do

God’s will if you are angry,” he said.

Kerns said that Katsos was an inspiration to him when he was at Fort Gordon decades ago.

Runs around post were tough for Kerns.

“I was a two pack a day smoker,” he said.

Katsos, too, smoked, but he’d keep up with the best of them and prod the rest of the group into performing better.

“He loved this country and the Army,” he said.



Photo by Charmain Brackett

Wreaths honoring fallen comrades in World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War, were placed at Freedom Park during the OCS reunion Sunday.

Retired Lt. Col. Maxie Holt, association chaplain, spoke about the Biblical account of David’s fight with the giant.

Although he was ridiculed because of his youth and lack of experience as a soldier, David asked a question of those who mocked him.

“Is there not a cause; isn’t there a reason,” said Holt, echoing David’s words.

“As OCS graduates, we know there’s a cause,” he said.

“We stand for what is right. We do what is right. There’s still a cause. Still we represent America, the greatest nation in the world,” he said.

The wreath laying ceremony was the final event of the weekend reunion.

About 75 OCS graduates attended the reunion, said Preas Street, organization treasurer.

On Friday, there was a welcome reception and social. On Saturday, Brig. Gen. Randolph P. Strong was the guest speaker at a banquet. Leeland Jones Jr. was named the distinguished graduate.

Soldiers show song, dance

Charmain Z. Brackett
Contributing writer

Sgt. Tony Cooper is involved in a friendly rivalry and needs the help of all his buddies at Fort Gordon.

“There is a competition within the cast to see which crowd got the loudest at their home duty station,” said Cooper, who had been working at Snyder Dental Clinic when he was selected for the U.S. Army Soldier Show.

The show will be performed at 8 p.m. Saturday and 6 p.m. Sunday at Alexander Hall.

Cooper hopes that the Fort Gordon crowd will be the loudest of them all.

“We need everyone to come out,” he said.

The Soldier Show is 90 minutes of high-energy song and dance in an array of musical styles including rock, country, gospel, eclectic new wave/new age and patriotic. There are more than 40 songs in this year’s show which has a theme of Operation America Cares.

Cooper said cast members can always tell those people who’ve never seen the show before.

They expect the show to be rather dull, he said; however, it

isn’t long before they are on their feet clapping, crying and singing along.

Being a part of the Soldier Show is something the 25 year-old has wanted to do for several years.

He said he saw the show when he was a junior in high school and said to himself that if he ever joined the Army, he wanted to be in the show.

“The greatest thing to me is singing,” he said.

Cooper grew up singing in church choirs and today sings wherever he can – weddings, funerals and even the Apollo Theatre.

In September 2004, after only two months at Fort Gordon, Cooper won the title of Aiken-Augusta American Idol at Aiken Mall.

From there, he auditioned in Sacramento, Calif., then advanced to auditions in Hollywood, finally being cut in the next to last round of the American Idol audition.

Cooper made it into the Soldier Show as only one of 16. More than 400 people submitted applications for the show.

However, there’s more to the Soldier Show than performing.

“It’s not like I’m Usher and can just come out and sing,”



Photo by Tim Hipps

Sgt. Tony Cooper sings “Somebody Told Me” by The Killers during rehearsal for the 2005 U.S. Army Soldier Show. Cooper was a dental specialist at Snyder Dental Clinic here before going on tour with the Soldier Show. The Soldier Show plays here Saturday and Sunday.

he said.

Cast members are required to learn other aspects of the traveling show including setting up and tearing down scenery and learning technical pieces.

The Fort Gordon shows come toward the end of the tour which wraps up next

month where it all began at Fort Belvoir, Va. The show opened there in May and will be performed more than 100 times when the tour ends.

Performers travel across the United States and to Korea and Japan for shows on the six month tour.

Travel back to renaissance, colonial times

Charmain Z. Brackett
Contributing writer

The Seventh Annual Columbia County Art and Renaissance Festival will be this weekend at the Savannah Rapids Pavilion.

The festival opens from 7-10 p.m. today with a reception. Winners of the juried art show will be announced at the reception, plus there will be a silent auction and entertainment. Tickets to the reception are \$10.

The festival continues from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday and 1-5 p.m. Sunday.

There will be live entertainment, children’s games, arts and crafts vendors and concessions. Admission is free.

For more information, call 868-3484.

A DAY TO REMEMBER

The 14th Annual Colonial Times: A Day to Remember is this weekend at North Augusta’s Living History Park.

The two-day event features colonial era re-enactors who transform the park into a colonial village and show what it was like to live during that time.

Artisans and craftsmen demonstrate blacksmithing, calligraphy, candle making, quilting and many other everyday tasks.

The event is free and will be from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday and 10 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Sunday.

For more information, call Lynn Thompson at 279-7560.

SWEET POTATO FESTIVAL

The town of Langley’s annual sweet po-

tato festival is from 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Saturday at Jacksonville Park in Langley, S.C.

There will be live entertainment, pie eating contests, and carnival games and rides.

For more information, call 593-9260.

SPOOKY WALK

Phinizy Swamp Nature Park can be spooky at night, and actors with Behind the Masque could chill the atmosphere even more.

A “Spooky Moonlight Monday” is scheduled for 7 p.m. Monday.

There will be a short hike and wine and cheese under a full October moon.

The event is for adults only and is \$8 for park members and \$10 for non-members.

Call 828-2109 for information.

Safety: Leading by example

Kristy Davies
Signal staff

A split second could change the rest of your life. Not being aware of your surroundings and not following rules and regulations are just two of many ways a person can endanger their life and the lives of others while driving on or off post.

In the wake of a recent motorcycle accident involving a Soldier, post leadership has again stepped up to bring more awareness to safety issues.

"I think (safety) has always been a concern," said Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Terry, U.S. Army Signal Center and Fort Gordon command sergeant major. "Right now, we are losing a Soldier every 32 hours to an accident, and it's not just that they are out of the net for a little while, they've actually died."

Terry has pulled over almost 200 personnel on post for various safety violations including failing to wear seatbelts, cell phone usage and speeding, to bring more awareness of driving safely.

"I follow them until they stop, then we get out and have a discussion," explained Terry. "I always ask what they would prefer: a ticket or a one-sided conversation from a sergeant major, and 99 percent of them



Photo by Kristy Davies

Lack of attention was cited as the cause for this three-vehicle collision near Gate 1 in early September.

said they would prefer a ticket."

Terry also noted the majority of the violators are not junior enlisted personnel.

"(Most) have been civilians, officers and noncommissioned officers, which is scary because those are leaders," said Terry. "If leaders get more involved and more corrective actions were taken, then I think it would make a difference on the installation."

"About 46 percent of total accident fatalities (in the Army), are (privately owned vehicle) related," said Lee Trennel, safety specialist, installation safety office and 15th Regimental Signal Brigade.

For fiscal year 2005, there

have been 135 POV accidental fatalities, 41 of which were motorcycle fatalities. From 1999 to 2005, accidental deaths within the Army have increased by more than 100 per year. There have been six POV accidents involving Soldiers assigned here from October 2004 to September 2005. Four of those accidents were fatalities. One motorcyclist was speeding on Riverwatch Parkway in Augusta, lost control and was ejected from the bike. Another motorcyclist was speeding on State Highway 149 while intoxicated and not wearing a helmet, lost control and was ejected from his bike resulting in a fatality.

Accidents can affect a per-

son in many ways. If there are injuries there could be medical expenses, liability, insurance increases, criminal charges or attorney's fees. An accident also affects family, friends, team members and the mission.

"It drastically impacts the Army," said Terry. "Every time we lose one Soldier to something (preventable) like not wearing a seatbelt, not wearing a helmet on a motorcycle and things like that...that's one more person that is not out there in the operational force, which then goes all the way back and means we have to get one more person into the force on the recruiting side."

See Safety, page 7

Airman stationed here charged with murder

Two Airmen assigned to the 31st Intelligence Squadron here were charged Oct. 11 in connection with the shooting death of a 24-year-old Augusta man.

The man's body was found Oct. 10 near the Medical College of Georgia with multiple gunshot wounds, according to Sgt. Richard Roundtree, Richmond County Sheriff's Office.

Richmond County charged

Airman 1st Class Said Mutazz with murder and possession of a firearm during the commission of a crime. Senior Airman Michael T. Nester was charged with making a false statement in a government matter.

Mutazz arrived here in August 2004 and Nester arrived in July 2004.

(From an Air Force press release.)

Viewpoint

Information, Opinions, and Commentary

Cavalry makes difference in Hurricane Katrina relief efforts

Spc. Joshua McPhie
Army News Service

NEW ORLEANS – The damage caused by Hurricane Katrina is almost too much to comprehend. Homes are surrounded by water, stretching as far as you can see, punctuated by the occasional smoldering shell of a burnt-out building.

But some things in the grief-stricken city have changed for the better in the last few days. Overpasses, rooftops, the convention center and stadiums are no longer the islands of huddled refugees they were following the brutal storm, thanks in part to Soldiers from the 1st Cavalry Division's 1st Air Cavalry Brigade.

More than 200 Soldiers from the 1st Cavalry's Warrior Brigade along with over 300 Soldiers from 4ID and other Army aviation units make up Task Force Warrior. They have been working to help the hurricane survivors by joining forces with aviators from the Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, Coast Guard and several civilian agencies working around the clock to relieve the suffering.

Since they arrived here Sept. 1, the

Cav air crews have been shuttling Soldiers into the city, moving stranded refugees to safer areas, airlifting injured people to hospitals and delivering much needed supplies.

"We're still in crisis response," said Col. Dan Shanahan, commander of the Task Force. "The bulk of the force is doing humanitarian relief."

He said the aircrews' immediate concern was to help evacuate everyone and help sustain life.

"For the most part we've been doing passenger movements," Sgt. Kendrick Scott, Bravo Company 2nd Battalion 227th Aviation Regiment, 1st Air Cavalry Brigade, said of his Chinook crew's missions.

Much of their work has been transporting people who have had to abandon their homes, the Louisville, Ky., native said.

Scott, a flight engineer, estimates their crew has also moved 5,000 pounds of cargo, food and supplies to the Superdome in their first three days. Several of their missions have included dropping off pallets of supplies.

"Usually it takes about two hours of prior work for that operation, which is only about 20 minutes," Scott said.

Before the Chinook picks up the supplies, Soldiers lay out cargo netting, put pallets on top of them, pile the supplies on top, wrap it all with the cargo net and position a hook on the top of the load, Scott said.

"We'll hover over the pallets, hook up to the hooks and we're off," Scott said.

Flying over New Orleans made it even easier to see the devastation caused by the storm. Scott said he could see the damage and knew that people had lost everything.

"It's kind of hard to watch," Scott said. "You'll see a lot of houses with the word help painted on the roof."

Now that many of the city's residents are out of immediate danger, the aviation leaders are developing a plan of action for the next phase, Shanahan said.

"The initial phase was moving people from their homes to high and dry areas," he said. "We will move into a more logistical role soon."

Let's hope with the new role that the cavalry continues to make a difference in helping the hard-hit city recover.

(McPhie serves with 1st Cavalry Division Public Affairs.)

Are you prepared

Maj. Dani Johnson
Air Force Print News

NEW ORLEANS – I thought I was ready to deploy but I didn't realize how unprepared I really was until I received orders to move within 24 hours. I had to ask myself the question: How prepared am I to face unexpected contingencies or disasters?

I received the notice the morning of Sept. 3 to deploy the next day to Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala., for Joint Task Force-Katrina. My mind scrambled as I thought about what I needed: orders, plane tickets, gear. Professionally I was ready and prepared.

Personally, I wasn't quite as ready. As I did five loads of laundry, my mind went over what I would need. I had the recommended packing list but that had primarily only professional gear listed. I thought I had everything until I got here, unrolled my sleeping bag and realized I didn't bring a pillow. Living in bare base conditions, there were small things I could have brought to enhance my quality of life. But because I wasn't prepared, I forgot them.

While I was packing and calling

my parents, I had to find someone to watch my cats. Military families with children have to have a short-term care program. Those of us with pets aren't required to have one. I realized that I needed to have a plan for these exact times. Thank goodness for the kindness of neighbors.

After I redeploy, you can bet that I will have a personal short-notice deployment kit at home with a to-do list with what needs to be done before I depart.

Shortly after I arrived, I escorted national media on a helicopter flight over the city. As I looked down at the water surrounding houses, I asked myself: Would I be ready to evacuate my home if I needed to? What would I take with me?

Many of us don't want to deal with the reality that a disaster could happen to us. Unfortunately it has been proven time and time again that something will happen. Once I'm home, I also will create a list of what I would take with me if I had to evacuate my home.

As my deployment here winds down, I realize while I was ready to help, I wasn't as prepared as I thought I was. I can guarantee you I will be next time. Will you?

Feedback...

By 1st Lt. Sharron Stewart

What has been the most important Army Value while supporting hurricane relief?



Selfless service. That's what the mission is about, putting others before yourself.

Sgt. Andre Butler
HHD, 56th Signal Battalion



I would have to say duty because we have to put the mission first.

Sgt. James Grandinetti
HHD, 56th Signal Battalion



I think it took personal courage to come down here and not know what we were going to face or what we were up against.

Sgt. Eleanor Salazar
518th Tactical Installation Network Company



I'd have to say personal courage. Personal courage enables you to keep your head high and to be proud of what you are doing.

Sgt. Anthony Tyree
252nd Signal Company



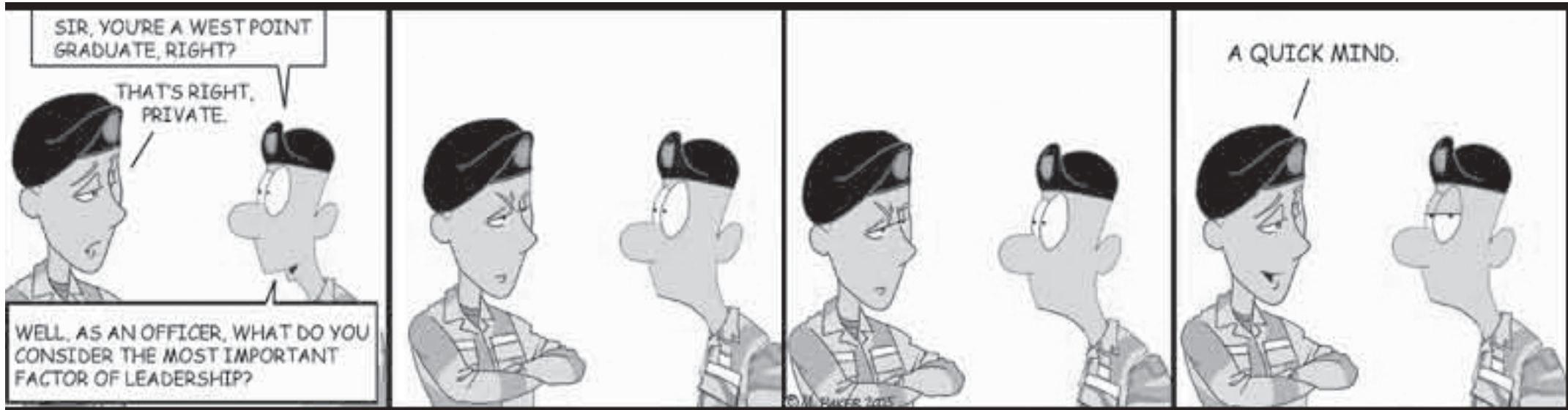
A sense of duty enables you to have loyalty to the mission. Everyone has been working with very little sleep to get the mission accomplished.

Spc. Chris Buttaro
252nd Signal Company

Private Murphy

By Mark Baker

'Quick Mind'



The Signal

News Office
(706)791-7069

Nelson Hall Room 209, Fax 791-5463
www.gordon.army.mil/pao

Advertising Office
(706)724-2122

P.O. Box 948, Waynesboro, Ga. 30830
Ads may be faxed to **706-554-2437**

Commanding General: Brig. Gen. Randolph P. Strong
Garrison Commander: Col. Karen Adams
Public Affairs Officer: James L. Hudgins
Command Information Officer: Nancy Martin
Civilian Editor: Steve Brady
Staff Writers: Kristy Davies and Tammy Moehliman
Editorial Office: Fort Gordon Public Affairs Office, Bldg. 29801 Room 209, 520 Chamberlain Ave., Fort Gordon, Ga. 30905-5735
Civilian Printer: Citizen Newspapers, Waynesboro, Ga.

Publisher: Roy F. Chalker Jr.
General Manager: Bonnie K. Taylor
Sales Representative: Faye Watkins and Deborah Kitchens
This Civilian Enterprise Newspaper is an authorized publication for all personnel at Fort Gordon. Contents of *The Signal* are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. government, the Department of Defense, the Department of the Army, or the U.S. Army Signal Center. *The Signal* is published weekly using offset production.
The appearance of advertising in

this publication, including inserts and supplements, does not constitute endorsement by the Department of Defense, or the Citizen Newspapers, of the products or services advertised.
Everything advertised in this publication shall be made available for purchase, use, or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation, or any other nonmerit factor of the purchaser, user or patron. If a violation or rejection of this policy of equal opportunity by an advertiser is confirmed, the publisher shall

refuse to print advertising from that source until the violation is corrected.
The Signal is an unofficial publication authorized by AR 360-1. The editorial content of this publication is the responsibility of the Public Affairs Office of the U.S. Army Signal Center and Fort Gordon. The Signal is published by the Citizen Newspapers, a private firm in no way connected with the Department of the Army, under exclusive written contract with the U.S. Army Signal Center and Fort Gordon.
The contracting officer serves as liaison between the civilian printer

and the commanding general. Letters to the editor must be signed with the author's printed name and address included.
Requests for use of information by other news organizations should be directed to the Public Affairs Office. Pictures not otherwise credited are official U.S. Army photographs. Army News Service and American Forces Information Service material is used.
Opinions expressed are those of individuals, and are not to be considered those of the Department of the Army or its agencies.
Distribution on post is free, and circulation is 18,500 per week.

PLDC renamed Warrior Leader Course

Army News Service

WASHINGTON – The Army has announced that its Primary Leadership Development Course will be renamed the Warrior Leader Course, beginning Saturday, and officials said the new name reflects changes made to PLDC curriculum over the past year.

The course has been redesigned to better prepare Soldiers for asymmetrical warfare and now includes lessons learned in Iraq and Afghanistan, said Brig. Gen. James M. Milano, the Army’s director of Training under G3.

“The new WLC will not only prepare Soldiers for traditional challenges, but irregular challenges as well,” Milano said after reviewing all the changes made to the curriculum.

WLC now emphasizes the skills and knowledge small-unit leaders need to excel in a contemporary operational environment, Milano said.

ACADEMY HELPS REVAMP
“We are a nation at war. We have taken the lessons learned from our deployments and incorporated them into our revised leadership course,” said Col. David Abramowitz, commandant of the U.S. Army Sergeants Major Academy, which played a major role in redesigning the PLDC curriculum.

“These changes add rigor and relevance to the course and improve leadership skills and confidence in our junior leaders,” Abramowitz said. “The course is revolutionary and warrants a name change.”

Warrior Leader Course is the right name for the new course, Abramowitz said, because it “espouses the tenets of the Warrior Ethos.”

PLDC used an instructor-centered, exposure, and feedback system. Instruction consisted of lecture, classroom-based practical exercises, and a cognitive skills test. A short field training exercise was the practical exercise used to evaluate combat leader skills.

The FTX, though, lacked standardization throughout the Army, said retired Sgt. Maj. Ron Schexnayder of the G3 Leader Development Division. He said a different approach was needed to produce a competent, innovative, adaptive and agile combat leader required by the current operational environment.

STEMS BACK TO ATLDP
The NCO phase of the Army Training and Leader Development Panel, known as ATLDP, was not about “fixing” the NCO Corps; rather, it was an introspection to determine how the Army could make a professional NCO Corps even better, Schexnayder said. He said since ATLDP, the Army has been in the process of transforming the NCO Education System in an effort to design a system that would not dilute the warfighting focus of NCOES.

NCOES must remain focused on NCO core areas of leading, training, maintaining standards, caring for Soldiers, technical competencies and tactical warrior skills, Schexnayder said, while integrating greater conceptual and interpersonal skills.

Changes in the modular



U.S. Army photo

PLDC students at the NCO Academy, Fort Campbell, Ky., go over an inspection checklist.

Army and operational environment now require decentralized leadership skills, Schexnayder said. He said a small unit leader is needed who can employ all warfighting functions rapidly.

VERSATILE NCOs NEEDED
The modular force structure and contemporary operational environment relies heavily on small-unit tactics. The demands of today’s battlefield require leaders who can think independently, Schexnayder said.

The Warrior Leader Course is designed to provide the Army with NCOs who can visualize, describe, and execute squad-level operations in varied operational environments, Schexnayder said.

“The WLC places the responsibility of training individual Soldier skills back on the

junior leader,” said Command Sgt. Maj. James Dale of the Sergeants Major Academy. “This course prepares him/her to assume that role.”

WLC IS BATTLE-FOCUSED
Graduates of WLC will have experienced standard-based, performance-oriented and battle-focused training, which supports squad-level operations, Schexnayder said. Every specialist (promotable) and sergeant in an all-volunteer Army require training as combat leaders, he said.

The WLC is now tailored to the environment in which the Army operates today, Schexnayder said. Every student now receives detailed squad-level combat leader training. This learner-centered and outcome-based approach rein-

forces all small unit tactics, techniques, and procedures, he said.

The WLC incorporates recent lessons learned, Schexnayder said. As such, he said the course constantly adapts to world threats by incorporating the experience from the battlefield. Combat skills are trained and reinforced upon arrival, “Weapon immersion” is emphasized throughout the new course.

Training and evaluation as a combat leader now applies to every Soldier. Evaluation is centered on the NCO’s ability to demonstrate troop-leading procedures in current threat-based scenarios.

NEW STX IS 96 HOURS
The combat focus of the course culminates in a 96-hour Situational Training Exercise or STX. Nine battle drills and 39 warrior tasks are the framework driving the planning, preparation, rehearsal and execution of all squad operations. This STX is competency-based, battle-focused, grounded in a combat scenario, driven by troop-leading procedures, officials said.

Instructors must complete certification before leading and evaluating students. The WLC also requires trainers to have squad leader and platoon sergeant experience and to be certified to teach the entire curriculum.

The long-term goal is to train all specialists with promotion potential at the WLC, Schexnayder said.

He said the course will teach specialists how to be an NCO and focus on leading, training, caring, maintaining, and warrior skills.

Safety

From page 4

“But I think probably what is just as big (as the impact on the mission) is the impact on family and friends,” added Terry. “I have not gone to a memorial service yet where people weren’t tearful and upset.”

Accident fatalities affect a unit from the junior enlisted to leadership.

“You can replace equipment or materialistic things, but you can never replace an individual,” said Capt. Connie Glaze, 15th Signal Brigade S-3 and safety officer. “Just because I’m not on the front lines that doesn’t justify me to act in a way that is not beneficial to the mission.”

Prevention and awareness is a complicated task assigned to safety offices across the Army, including the installation safety office and military police.

“We have got to find a way to get through to (the Soldiers),” said Terry. “Leaders just need to concentrate on safety because it does save lives (and) they need to be stern. I need their help because I don’t want to be the only one pulling folks over for violations.”

“One of my favorite sayings

is every time you walk past a mistake, you set a new standard in the Army,” said Terry. “Unfortunately, accidents right now are lessons noted not lessons learned.”

Motorcycle accidents have made the news and brought the attention back to safety issues and trying to find the cause of the increase of fatalities.

“A lot of Soldiers are going to Iraq and coming back with a lot of extra money, and with the gas prices they are buying motorcycles,” explained Russ Blandin, safety specialist with the installation safety office. “Anybody that operates a motorcycle on post has to attend a motorcycle driver education class before you can register it, whether active duty or civilian.”

Accidents that occur on post are investigated by the military police. The MP then issues the Soldier at fault with a Department of Defense Form 1408, which does not require the Soldier to pay any fines.

“(After a Soldier receives a DD Form 1408) they go through the installation legal system and the punishment is either handed down through the court or the ticket is forwarded

to the commander of that individual Soldier and the commander will give out the punishment,” explained Sgt. 1st Class Todd Gordon, traffic supervisor, 35th MP Detachment. “Soldiers ... might think twice if they have to pay \$125 for a ticket, and then (hopefully) they would quit speeding and causing traffic accidents.”

Finding out the cause of accidents on and off post is not hard for Gordon.

“The biggest problem is the defiance to follow the regulations and rules,” said Gordon. “If you go outside and run a survey, just sitting on the side of the road, you (will see) the number of people using cell phones to this day and speeders who know that areas are troops zones during (physical training) and they still (speed).”

“All I am doing is trying to solicit some help in just the small things which are seatbelts, cell phone usage, speeding and those types of violations that happen on the installation,” added Terry.

“What it comes down to is personal responsibility,” said Trennel.

Courses on accident avoidance and motorcycle safety are offered through the installation safety office. According to the U.S. Army Installation Management Agency, all Soldiers, civilian employees and contractor employees who drive Army-owned vehicles must complete the Accident Avoidance Course and refresher training must be completed every four years.

The course is free and can be taken online through Army Knowledge Online at <http://www.us.army.mil> or <http://crc.army.mil/home>, and a defensive drivers course can be taken online at <http://www.transchool.eustis.army.mil/training/web/wvaa.htm> at no cost.

The motorcycle safety course is offered monthly; for more information call Russ Blandin, safety specialist and motorcycle safety instructor with the installation safety office, at 791-7233.



Courtesy photo

Best blood donors

Company B, 447th Signal Battalion received the Kendrick Memorial Blood Center Unit of the Month Award Oct. 6 for donating 145 units of blood and platelets during August. Lt. Col. Richard Gonzales, chief of Blood Services at Eisenhower Army Medical Center, presented the trophy to Capt. Rodney Byrd and 1st Sgt. Shawn Powers in front of the company formation.

First U.S. earthquake relief supplies arrive in Pakistan

Air Force Capt. James Cunningham
Special to American Forces Press Service

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan – The first relief supplies from the United States arrived here on a U.S. Air Force C-17 Globemaster III transport jet less than 48 hours after the devastating earthquake that left thousands dead and thousands more injured.

The C-17 and its crew from the 7th Airlift Squadron, McChord Air Force Base, Wash., delivered 12 pallets – weighing almost 90,000 pounds – of food, water, medicine and blankets from Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan.

Airmen and Soldiers at Bagram, with only a few hours’ notice, worked feverishly to palletize the supplies and prepare them for the flight.

“This was a total team effort from everyone here at Bagram,” said Col. Mike Isherwood, 455th Air Expeditionary Wing vice commander. “Our hearts go out to all those affected by the earthquake, and we are thankful we were able to help out.”

Master Sgt. John Keel and Staff Sgt. Larry Mansell, both Air National Guard members from the 137th Aerial Port Squadron from Oklahoma City, Okla., charged with ensuring the cargo is properly managed on the ramp at the Islamabad airport, will temporarily stay at Islamabad

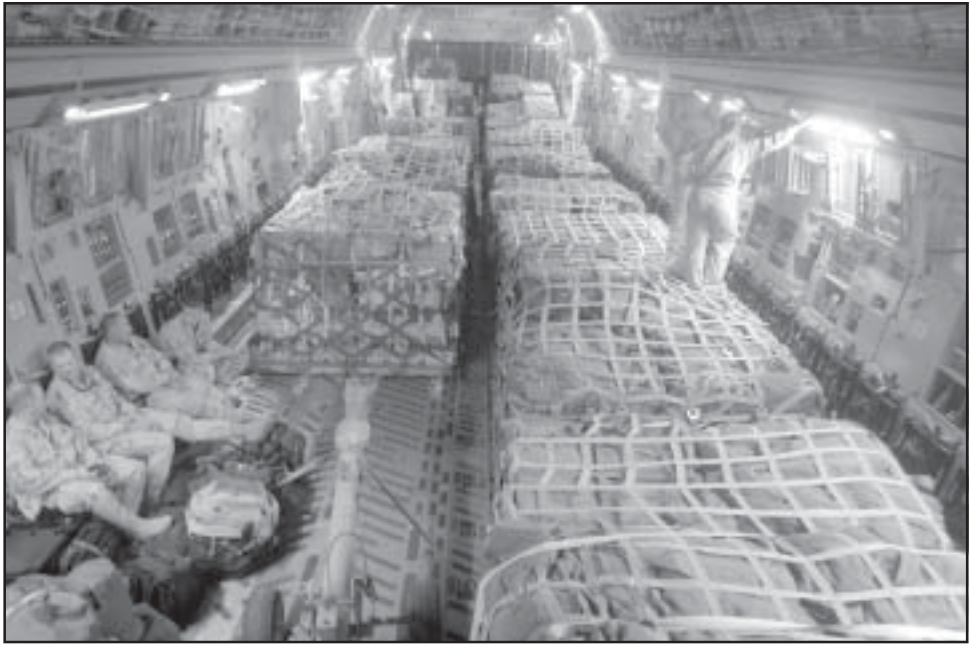


Photo by Air Force Capt. James Cunningham

The first relief supplies from the United States were flown aboard a U.S. Air Force C-17 to Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan, less than 48 hours after the devastating earthquake that left thousands dead and thousands more injured.

to help with future cargo movements.

“The troops can handle it here at Bagram while we go help the people in Pakistan,” said Keel.

Pakistan Army Brig. Gen. Imtiaz Sherazi, director of logistics, is coordinating the relief supplies as they arrive and making sure

they get to the areas that need them.

“I would like to thank the Air Force,” he said. “These items are very valuable to us because there are lots of people in great distress.”

(Cunningham is assigned to 455th Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs.)

U.S. assistance arrives in Pakistan

Army News Service

KABUL, Afghanistan – U.S. forces are assisting with

rescue, recovery and relief operations in Pakistan following an earthquake that killed between 20,000 and 30,000.

Five CH-47 Chinook and three UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters with U.S. Soldiers and supplies from Afghanistan arrived in

Islamabad, Pakistan, Monday to assist with recovery operations in the wake of Saturday’s devastating earthquake.

The helicopter crews were from the 3rd Battalion, 158th Aviation Regiment and 2nd Battalion, 6th Cavalry Regiment at Bagram Airfield and Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan.

The helicopters took off from Bagram Airfield again Tuesday to ferry supplies to earthquake-stricken areas and evacuate those injured.

Additionally, C-130 Hercules and C-17 Globemaster aircraft from Afghanistan will transport 30 pallets of relief supplies to a Pakistan Army Airfield near Islamabad, officials said.

“Our total focus is on relieving the suffering in Pakistan, help them stabilize and, in the longer term, recover,” said Lt. Gen. Karl Eikenberry, Combined Forces Command-Afghanistan commanding general.

(Information provided by Combined Joint Task Force–76 Public Affairs in Afghanistan.)



Photo by Staff Sgt. Ken Denny

A Pakistani soldier directs a U.S. Army CH-47 Chinook helicopter as it touches down on Qasim Army Airfield, Pakistan to assist in the humanitarian aid effort Monday. Helicopters were diverted from Operation Enduring Freedom to assist in Pakistan after a 7.6 earthquake caused enormous damage.

Abu Ghraib detainees enter contest

Sgt. Lynne Steely
Army News Service

ABU GHRAIB, Iraq – Concrete bunkers, strategically placed within the confines of Abu Ghraib prison for detainee protection, turned into works of art when juvenile detainees were offered the challenge to paint them in the form of a contest.

The detainees were given paint and supplies provided by the 306th Military Police Battalion’s Repair and Utilities section to decorate the bunkers, and a few theme ideas, such as “a united Iraq” to get them started.

Capt. Jim Allen, compound commander, said he came up with the idea as a way to keep the juvenile detainees’ minds occupied and to give them something to focus on.

“The juveniles become bored very easily,” said Allen. “We are always trying to think of new activities for them.”

“We also wanted to tie the contest in with the beginning of Ramadan to help get them mentally set for the holiday,” added Allen. Ramadan, which began Oct. 4, is a holy month where Muslims offer peace and treat other people with kindness and respect.

The bunkers were painted in myriad colors, in several designs and patterns. Some displayed phrases either in English or Arabic. One bunker read, “Help we to new Iraq. We need freedom,” amongst



Courtesy photo

This bunker at Abu Ghraib was painted by young detainees during a Ramadan art contest.

several painted flowers.

The contest concluded Oct. 3 when the judges determined a first-, second- and third-place winner.

First-place winners received a large edition of the Qur’an (the holy book of Islam) and seven nights of comedy movies. Second-place also received a large

Qur’an and one night of comedy movies. Each of the third-place winners received seven days of special meals.

Another contest is planned for after the Ramadan holiday, said Allen.

(Steely serves with the 18th Military Police Brigade Public Affairs Office at Camp Victory, Iraq.)

American medics save Afghan boy’s leg

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – A young boy will keep his leg, thanks to limb-saving surgery conducted in late September at the American hospital at Bagram Air Base in Afghanistan, Combined Forces Command Afghanistan officials announced Friday.

Abdul Salaam, a 14-year-old

boy from the Paktika province, suffered a gunshot wound during a Sept. 19 ambush while he was traveling with a group near the Afghanistan-Pakistan border, officials said.

The boy received some initial treatment, but later developed an infection. Abdul’s father brought him to a forward operating base in the Paktika

province, where coalition medical personnel determined there was a strong chance the leg would be lost without immediate attention, officials said.

Abdul and his father were flown to Bagram Air Base, where doctors operated Sept. 29 to save the leg. The operation was successful and his prognosis for recovery is good,

officials said.

“The doctors here at Bagram are glad to be able to help and support the Afghan people with medical care,” said Dr. (Maj.) Robert Swift, chief of orthopedics and one of the doctors who performed the surgery. “The surgery was extremely successful and he is doing fine now.”

A tale of two jumpers

Chap. (Capt.) W. B. Tripp
447th Signal Battalion

The skydiving community, like the Army, is a unique environment with its own lingo of abbreviations and euphemisms.

I took two friends of mine to a dropzone for their first jump course and told them of one of these terms they would hear: “whuffor.” It is a short form of a question often asked of skydivers: “Whuffor you jump out of a perfectly good airplane?” The standard answer given is “Because the door was open.”

I watched my two friends going through their ground instruction during the course of the day in between getting in some dives myself. Over and again they were told in their training not to look down, but to keep looking up (at the airplane) as they jump. This is meant (in addition to the cliché about fear of heights) to put the jumper in a good, stable body position for the parachute to open, which lessens the shock of opening and helps prevent malfunctions.

The first jumper did exactly that: they climbed out on the step, held on to the strut, arched, and let go, staying focused on what they had to do. The second jumper however, looked down when the door opened with a loud rush of air. Panicked, they refused to jump, and landed with the plane.

What’s the difference between the two? Both jumpers were committed, and both must have had some faith that they would be OK, or they would not have gotten on the plane.

Some might say the difference was just sheer guts; I don’t think so. I believe it has to do with the type of commitment each

had made. The first jumper made their commitment, completely unconcerned with the potential consequences; they stayed focused on what they went there to do, and kept looking up.

The second looked down, and the potential consequence of getting hurt magnified their fears until they were incapable of doing what they went there to do. (To their credit, they came back on the very next flight and jumped.)

The prophet Isaiah went through something like this at the time of his calling. He feared, but still committed: “Here am I, send me,” he said, before he had any idea of what God had in store for him. He was ready, regardless of the potential consequences, staying focused on above, looking up, not down. He said “Here am I, send me,” not, “Here am I, send me only if you will guarantee...”

And so it is with us and our faith. When we stand and make a commitment to God, it must be without consideration of the potential consequences; anything less means there is a measuring line put to it.

Suddenly our faith would depend on what it might cost us, and that’s not true faith, at least not the kind that enables us to jump from a perfectly good airplane – or tell God to send us without even knowing where that might be or what might happen there.

Take a stand on your faith; depend on God and trust that He has you in His hand and will take care of you. Put no limits on your faith, and there will be no limit to what God will do through you.

Remember: don’t look down – keep looking up. The door’s open.

Revamped Army recruiting system helps boost active-duty enlistments

Gerry J. Gilmore
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – The Army was about 6,600 recruits shy of meeting its active duty enlisted recruiting goal for fiscal 2005, but a revamped recruiting system is causing the numbers to go back up, an Army Staff officer said Tuesday.

Lt. Col. Bryan Hilferty said recruiting system tweaks made over the summer are working and will help the Army enlist the 80,000 new active duty Soldiers it needs during fiscal 2006.

“We’ve added active, Reserve and Guard recruiters,” said Hilferty, a personnel specialist on the Army Staff. The Army also made changes to its enlistment incentive programs, he said, and changed its recruitment ad campaigns to better target parents and other influencers of today’s youth.

Following a dismal winter and spring, the summer was fruitful for Army recruiters, Hilferty said, noting that that success has continued into the fall. The Army signed up more than 8,700 active duty recruits in September, making 104 percent of that month’s goal, according to Defense Department statistics released Tuesday.

The Army recruited more than 73,000 active duty enlisted Soldiers for the fiscal year that ended Sept. 30. That amounted to 92 percent of the Army’s goal of 80,000 recruits for fiscal 2005.

The Navy and Marine Corps achieved 100 percent of their active duty enlisted recruiting goals for fiscal 2005, while the Air Force notched 102 percent. In total, the services signed up 163,259 new active-duty

enlisted members between Oct. 1, 2004, and Sept. 30, 2005.

The Army National Guard and Army Reserve didn’t meet their recruiting goals for fiscal 2005, finishing the year with 80 and 84 percent of their quotas, respectively.

And the Army, Marine Corps and Air Force all exceeded their annual retention goals for fiscal 2005, according to DoD statistics. The Navy achieved a 91 percent retention rate for its mid-career Sailors.

Hilferty acknowledged there’s a tight recruiting market, partly because parents are concerned about their children enlisting and then serving in war zones. And “the economy is very bad for us, because it’s so good,” he pointed out, noting that young people have other choices for employment other than military service.

The Army tells civilian communities about

the merits of military service through its “Call-to-Duty” campaign that has Soldiers explaining to potential recruits and parents “what it means to be a Soldier,” Hilferty said.

Hilferty said the Special Recruiter Assistance Program also helps the Army tell its story to potential recruits. Any Soldier who is a veteran of Afghanistan or Iraq may request a two-week temporary duty assignment to go back to their hometown, he explained, to work with local recruiters and talk to people about their experiences.

“We get the news, the truth, out to local people, unfiltered by possibly biased media,” Hilferty noted.

Factoring in resources like more recruiters and increased bonus money, Hilferty said, Army planners are “relatively confident” of meeting the goal of signing up 80,000 recruits for fiscal 2006.




Photo by Sarah K. FitzCrisp

Cali-cat

Cali Cat is a young, domestic short-haired calico appropriately colored black and orange for Halloween. She and others pets are available for immediate adoption at the Fort Gordon vet clinic. Adoption fee is \$60 and includes spay or neuter, vaccines and microchip. For information, call 787-3815.

Rochelle named new IMA commander

Ned Christensen
IMA Public Affairs

WASHINGTON – The Installation Management Agency said farewell in a ceremony Oct. 6 to outgoing director Maj. Gen. Ronald L. Johnson as he leaves IMA to take over as deputy chief of engineers and deputy commanding general of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Johnson, who thought of himself as the IMA quarterback, “passed the football” to IMA principal deputy director Philip E. Sakowitz in the ceremony, hosted by Lt. Gen. David W. Barno, assistant chief of staff for installation management. Sakowitz will serve as acting director until incoming director Maj. Gen. Michael D. Rochelle assumes the post in late October.

Johnson assumed the directorship of IMA Aug. 9, 2004, and leaves following a year that saw dramatic growth and promise for the future in IMA,

despite being filled with the turbulence of changing times and sustaining an Army at war.

“Ron Johnson probably had the toughest two-star job in our Army during his 14 months here in IMA,” said Barno. “If you look at what we’ve asked him to do, leading 78,000 people across 110-plus installations, scattered literally across the globe, with increasing missions and decreasing people – that’s about as tough a sledding as you can get, and he has done that magnificently well.”

“We’ve got more folks under...this organization than we have in just about any corps-level fighting force in the Army. That’s remarkable and the breadth and scope of your responsibilities is immense,” Barno said.

Johnson was a tireless advocate for IMA’s mission of improving Soldiers’ well-being by standardizing the services on installations.

He was particularly passionate about Common Levels of

Support, which for the first time quantifies the cost of running installations and shows what happens when funding lags. He credited CLS with providing the solid data to sell the Army leadership on funding installations to 90 percent of required funding levels. At the same time, Johnson decided to hold implementation back a year to make sure it was right when fully deployed.

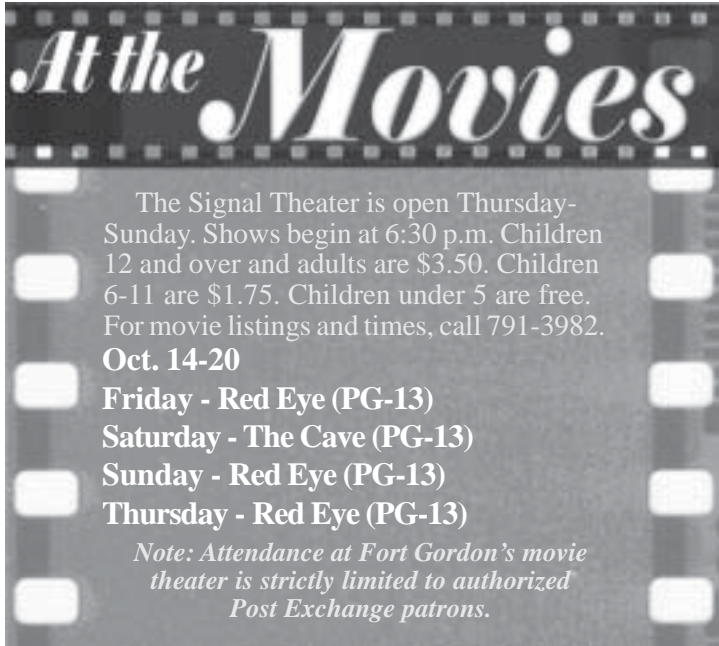
Johnson compared the February 2005 decision to fund installations at 90 percent of base operations and 90 percent of facility maintenance and sustainment requirements to the Army College Fund in terms of significance to sustaining Army recruiting and retention.

“The wellbeing and quality of life that you (the IMA workforce) deliver in enhancing the facilities where our Soldiers live, work and play will be the edge that sustains this world-class, all-volunteer Army. It is your work alone that will cause other Americans

to answer their call to duty,” Johnson said, echoing the theme of the Association of the United States Army convention that concluded the day before the departure ceremony.

“90-90 (funding for installations) is a huge decision and I encourage each and every one of you to use the very best judgment and professionalism in figuring out how to deliver to our people the very best without wasting a single dime,” Johnson said.

The hours for trick or treating on post are 6-8 p.m. **Oct. 28.**



AUSA honors first journalist with highest award

Col. Randy Pullen
Army News Service

WASHINGTON – A man once seen nightly by millions of Americans became the first journalist to receive the Association of the United States Army’s highest award.

Tom Brokaw, former news anchor and editor for the NBC Nightly News and author of “The Greatest Generation,” was presented the 2005 George Catlett Marshall Medal Oct. 5 at the closing event of AUSA’s 51st Annual Meeting and Exposition, the George Catlett Marshall Memorial Dinner.

The Marshall Medal is awarded annually to an individual who has exhibited “selfless service to the United States of America,” according to the association. The AUSA Council of Trustees chose Brokaw to recognize him for his lifetime contributions as a journalist, reporter, editor, broadcaster and author.

A seven-time Emmy recipient, Brokaw has also hosted “Today,” “The Brokaw Report,” the prime-time news magazine “Now” with Katie Couric, “Dateline NBC,” “Tom Brokaw Reports,” and numerous special reports and documentaries, to include “The Road to Baghdad.” He was a White House correspondent and has authored many articles, essays and commentaries.

“For over 40 years, Tom Brokaw has been part of our lives as he brought the world news into our homes – with objectivity, accuracy and integrity,” said retired Gen. Gordon R. Sullivan, AUSA’s president. “Throughout his career, Mr. Brokaw has been there for our American service men and women, especially in recent years as our sons and daughters – in service to our nation and the free world – fight the difficult and frustrating global war on terrorism.

Sullivan noted that Brokaw had traveled to the mountainous and barren terrain of Afghanistan where he reported on the hunt for al Qaeda with Soldiers from the 10th Mountain Di-

vision; that he was the first to report that the war in Iraq had begun; while embedded in a Humvee with Soldiers from the 1st Cavalry Division, and that he told the American people and the world about the dangers our troops face as they patrol the streets of Baghdad and that he had interviewed our military leaders and told the story of our efforts to rebuild and bring democracy to the war-torn country of Iraq.

“It is fitting,” Sullivan said, “that this year’s Marshall Medal to Mr. Brokaw follows the presentation of the 2004 award to the American Soldier.”

“Whether sitting behind the anchor desk at NBC world headquarters in New York, trudging through the mountains of Afghanistan with our Soldiers or riding in a Humvee on the streets of Baghdad patrolling with our troops, Tom Brokaw has served the American people, our armed forces, the men and women in uniform and their families with remarkable devotion, professionalism and honesty,” Sullivan said. “He is a reporter’s reporter.”

Brokaw is equally known and respected for his telling the story of an earlier generation of Americans fighting for their country. He is the author of the bestselling 1998 book, “The Greatest Generation,” which told the story of those Americans who grew up during the Great Depression of the 1930s and who then fought and won World War II. He followed this book with two more recounting the experiences of World War II veterans and their families: “The Greatest Generation Speaks” in 1999 and “An Album of Memories” in 2001.

Brokaw exhibited his well-known wit as he started to address the audience following the presentation of the Marshall Medal. From somewhere in the vast audience came a “We love you, Tom!”

“Thanks, Mom,” Brokaw said.

Referring to his books on the World War II generation, Brokaw said there had been those who had challenged all that he had credited to “the Great-



Photo by Staff Sgt. Carmen Burgess

AUSA President and retired Gen. Gordon Sullivan (right) presents the Marshall Award to Tom Brokaw.

est Generation,” the men and women who had won the Second World War and then gone on to rebuild America.

“That’s my story and I’m sticking to it,” he said to rousing applause.

Brokaw said that the country had summoned those men and women and they had gone off to fight on six of the seven continents of the globe. Then they came home and became leaders in art, industry, science and government and all other aspects of American society.

He praised the man whose name was on the medal just bestowed on him, calling Gen. of the Army George C. Marshall “the single most underappreciated American of the 20th Century – maybe of all time. He was a warrior, a diplomat and a visionary.”

“I am deeply humbled by this award,” he said. “I am also pleasantly surprised to learn I’m the first journalist to receive this.”

He remarked that as surprising as

it may seem to many in the audience, Soldiers and journalists really do have the same DNA. They are both also patriots.

Speaking of those he has reported on so often, he said that “in distant places at this hour, there are young men and women in uniform on duty – in Afghanistan, in Iraq, in Baghdad.”

“Keep them in our heart and minds at all times,” Brokaw said.

Brokaw then talked about a conference he had attended in which a group of Army lieutenant colonels briefed the leading figures in American business on their experiences commanding troops in Iraq. He said they had done an outstanding job and that they had totally enthralled their audience.

Afterwards, the business elites had treated the Army officers like they were rock stars, Brokaw said. Many of them had also berated him and the other media representatives at this

conference for not telling the story that these officers had just presented.

The next day, Brokaw recounted, he told the businessmen that the story of successes and sacrifices had been told by the media and that those most interested in hearing it – the families and loved ones of the Soldiers and the communities from which the Soldiers came – had heard it. The fact that these elites had not heard of these stories until the lieutenant colonels had come to personally tell them was troubling to Brokaw.

“These officers were exceptional,” Brokaw said, “but they’re not the exception.”

“This country has the finest military in the history of mankind,” he continued, “one fully made up of volunteers. No institution is as representative of this great immigrant nation than the military.”

Yet just how good the Army is, who are the men and women who comprise it, what it is doing every day and what it costs to achieve all that is asked of it was unknown to America’s elites.

“That is unacceptable and dangerous to a democratic society,” Brokaw said.

He recalled how all members of the Greatest Generation had been asked to contribute to the conflict being waged by the entire nation. Everyone had been called upon to make some sort of sacrifice to win the war, either by serving in uniform, working in war industries, paying higher taxes or making other sacrifices so that service men and women would lack for nothing.

Now we ask too few sacrifices at the civilian level, he said, except for those whose loved ones serve.

Brokaw concluded that he hoped that this would change, that our generation would rise to the level of greatness as had that earlier generation.

Then perhaps, he said, when my great, great granddaughter is ready to write her book about our generation, she will be able to say, “They, too, met the test.”

Illinois governor honors Gold, Blue Star Mothers

Ashley Stetter
Army News Service

CHICAGO – Illinois Lt. Gov. Pat Quinn honored mothers who paid the price for American freedom – those who had a son or daughter killed in the military.

“It is right and fitting that we are here on this gray and solemn day to acknowledge the sorrow and reverence of the Gold Star Mother,” Quinn told those gathered at Chicago’s Navy Pier Sept. 25, in honor of Gold Star Mother’s Day.

Seventy Illinois mothers attended the ceremony hosted by Quinn’s office, and each was thankful to the hundreds who shared in the emotional day.

“Illinois is one of the few states that recognize Gold Star Mother’s Day, and we are thankful for the opportunity to remember our children,” said Angel Collins, mother of deceased Cpl. Jonathan Collins.

DAY SET 69 YEARS AGO

Gold Star Mother’s Day was established in 1936 to honor the mothers of fallen Soldiers and is recognized annually the last Sunday of September. The tradition began in WWI when mothers were given blue stars to repre-

sent military family members. The Gold Star was born when mothers of deceased Soldiers were asked to stitch gold stars over the blue, signifying to the nation that they had lost a loved one to military service.

Quinn continued the Gold Star tradition on Sunday when he presented Illinois mothers with banners adorning the traditional gold star. Mothers listened to condolence speeches from military chaplains, fellow Gold Stars Mothers and politicians, and each woman laid a yellow rose, donated by the USO, at the base of the service flag for their loved one.

Nancy Ebbers, who has lost two sons in the military, said she is thankful for the Gold Star tradition.

“I’m grateful for the comfort the Gold Star has given me,” Ebbers said. For Ebbers, the comfort isn’t so much in the Gold Star itself, but through the support of the monthly meetings, annual conventions and ceremonies that come with the organization. “I was hesitant to go to a gathering at first, but it was a relief to listen to stories like mine...to realize there are others going through this,” she explained.

Sandra Smith, mother of deceased Spc. Jeffrey A. Williams, understands Ebber’s struggle. “I’m appreciative of the ceremony and the support of other Gold Star Mothers, but I’m still going through it,” she said, “Jeffrey was a good kid. He is my hero.”

Quinn thanked the mothers and those who perished in defense of our country on behalf of all Illinois residents. “No

words can relieve the pain of a parent who loses a child before their time. We thank the service men and women for their sacrifice and give them our eternal debt of gratitude. Their families have made a sacrifice for all of us.”

MOM JUMPS WITH KNIGHTS

Three days earlier, Blue Star mother Pam Nila completed a tandem jump with the Army Golden Knights parachute team

from 12,500 feet.

“It is an amazing feeling when you are proud of what your children do for a living and can feel good about the difference they are making,” she told fellow tandem jumpers as she prepared to make her first sky-dive with the Army’s elite parachute team.

Nila, one of 20 to jump at the Sept. 22 Golden Knight’s Tandem Camp in Ottawa, Ill., couldn’t be more willing to sup-

port the Knights and their effort to bring public awareness to the Army. “Their work is important to the entire Army organization.”

Nila is the founder of the new Illinois chapter of the Blue Star Mother’s, an organization that supports mothers who have sons and daughters serving or who have served.

(Stetter serves with the Office of the Chief of Public Affairs-Midwest in Chicago.)

Sports & Leisure

Sports UPDATE

Bike race

The Fort Gordon Tour de Fort bike race begins at 8 a.m. **Saturday.**

The event includes a family fun ride, 12-hour endurance road race and family festival activities. The race begins at the junctions of 111th Avenue, 15th and 16th Streets, and North Range Road.

For information call Bill Browning at 791-6099.

Paintball course

The Paintball course behind The Courtyard is open 3 p.m. Friday, 10 a.m. Saturday and 1 p.m. Sunday, each day until dark. Group rates available; call 228-5540 for details.

Golf course

Gordon Lakes Golf Course is open daily, 6:30 a.m.-7 p.m., offering 27 holes of play and a driving range.

Memberships are available to the public.

For information call 791-2433.

EFMP bowling

Exceptional Family Member Program Bowling is held the third Monday of each month at 5 p.m.

EFMP Bowling is free for special needs family members who are enrolled in EFMP, and is held at Gordon Lanes.

Free shoe rental and door prizes available; cost is \$1.25 per game. For information call Amos Demps at 791-3579.

Big Buck contest

Outdoor Recreation's Big Buck Contest runs through January 2006 during the hunting season.

Hunters with a Fort Gordon hunting license can register both bucks for the year by entering once.

Cost is \$10 for FGSC members and \$20 for non-members.

First place wins a \$300 gift certificate and a free mount.

Registration will be at the Tactical Advantage Sportsman Complex, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Tuesday to Friday and 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday.

For information call 791-5078/3317.

Fishing tournament

The Bass tournament will be held October 23 at the Butler Reservoir.

Tournament hours are from daylight to noon. The event is open to all ID card holders and members of the public with a FG fishing license guest permit. Permits will be available for purchase at time of registration for \$20 per person and \$10 for FGSC members with a \$5 Big Fish Pot.

There's a \$100 award for first place and a \$50 award for second.

For information call 791-5078/3317.

Sportsman's Club

The Fort Gordon Sportsman's Club is having its monthly meeting Thursday at the Tactical Advantage Sportsman's Complex.

The meal costs \$7 and is served at 6 p.m. The meeting begins at 7 p.m.

For information call 791-5078/3317

Army wrestler wins championship

Tim Hipps
Army News Service

ALEXANDRIA, Va. – Sgt. Iris Smith won a gold medal Sept. 30 in the women's 158.5-pound freestyle division of the 2005 World Wrestling Championships at Budapest, Hungary.

Smith, a wrestler in the U.S. Army World Class Athlete Program, defeated five-time world champion Kyoko Hamaguchi of Japan, 3-1, 1-1, 1-0, to become the new world champion in her weight class.

WCAP wrestlers Staff Sgt. Dremiel Byers and Sgt. Tina George also competed in the tournament but did not advance into the medal rounds.

The lone American female to win a gold medal in the world championships this year, Smith became the fourth U.S. woman wrestler to win a world crown. She joined her teenage idol, four-time world champion Tricia Saunders, along with Kristie Marano and Sandra Bacher.

"My first coach, Anthony White, always told me I could do it," said Smith, 25, who wrestled for the boys varsity team at Darsey Private School in Albany, Ga. "At the time, I had posters of Tricia Saunders. Now it is my turn."

To reach the championship match, Smith grappled to victories against Bulgaria's Stanka Zlateva, 3-1, 1-0; Poland's Angnieska Wieczczek, 2-0, 6-0; and Germany's Anita Schaeztle, 3-1, 2-0.

Smith scored her champion-

ship-winning point 50 seconds into the third period against Hamaguchi when they scrambled out of bounds. After a video review, the referee awarded the point to Smith, who kept the pressure on during the final minute.

"When it was over, I looked at [my coaches'] faces," she said. "When I saw them, I thought: 'I guess I won.' I was instantly thanking God. I was so pumped and teary-eyed."

Maintaining focus was Smith's key to victory.

"In all of Iris' matches, she never beat herself, which was something she had to work on," Team USA coach Terry Steiner said. "She kept good position, nothing fancy – just good, solid wrestling."

For her efforts, Smith was named TheMat.com Wrestler of the Week for Sept. 27 through Oct. 3. She also was tabbed USA Today's Olympic Athlete of the Week.

A four-time national champion, Smith has competed twice in the world championships, finishing seventh in 2000. She also made Team USA's roster for the world championships in 2001 but missed the event to attend Army basic training.

In men's Greco-Roman competition, Byers defeated Italy's Rocco Daniele Ficara, 4-1, 2-0, in the first round of the 264.5-pound division Oct. 2. In his second-round match, Byers lost 3-0, 1-1 to Kazakhstan's Georgiy Tsurtsunia, a 2004 Olympic silver medalist. Because Tsurtsunia scored the

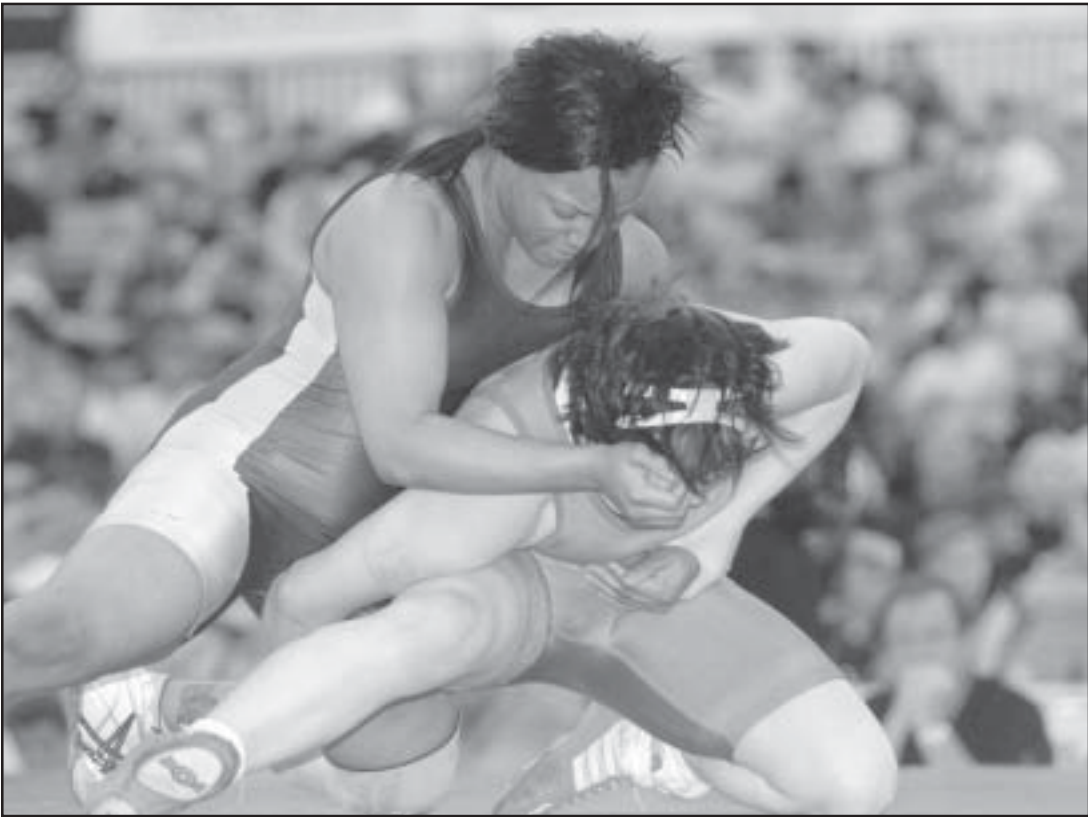


Photo by Tim Hipps

Iris Smith (top), seen here defeating Ali Bernard for the 2005 women's 158.5-pound freestyle national championship at Las Vegas, won a world wrestling championship in her weight class Sept. 30 at Budapest, Hungary. Smith, a member of the U.S. Army World Class Athlete Program, is stationed at Fort Carson, Colo.

last point of the second period, he was awarded the period and the match based on new rules implemented before the tournament by Federation Internationale des Luttes Associees, the international governing body for amateur wrestling.

"I was undecided what I would do on the top," said Byers, 31, who won a world championship three years ago. "I went for the reverse lift. I

was in a great position for that but I sat there a second thinking. I waited too late and could not switch off."

In the women's 121-pound freestyle division Sept. 29, George lost 1-0, 6-0 in the second round to Canada's Tonya Verbeek, a 2004 Olympic silver medalist.

"I don't know how to explain it," said George, 26, a two-time world silver medalist who opened with a 2-0, 2-1 victory

over Mongolia's Naidan Otgonjargal. "It was just that match. I was off. Something didn't click right."

Everything, however, was clicking for Smith. One of four American women to earn a medal in the tournament, she helped Team USA to a third-place finish.

(Hipps writes for the U.S. Army Community and Family Support Center Public Affairs Office.)

Annual Tour de Fort bike race

Charmain Z. Brackett
Contributing writer

The annual Tour de Fort bicycle race is coming to Fort Gordon this weekend.

Professional and amateur athletes are expected to race on two different courses on post beginning at 8 a.m. Saturday.

The courses are unique in the sport of bicycle racing, said Tom Fitzpatrick, garrison operations manager.

"We control the traffic flow so the course is very safe," he said.

Riders appreciate those safety considerations, he said.

The family fun ride will consist of one lap around an 11-mile course.

That ride begins at 10 a.m. After the race at the finish

area, there will be a DJ, pony rides and concessions.

The 12-hour endurance road race features a 15-mile course; racers will begin at 8 a.m.

Fitzpatrick said the Fort Gordon event was a good way for some of Fort Gordon's military and civilian competitive bikers to interact with professionals.

"It's a fun opportunity" for them, he said.

The event helps raise money which will be used for Directorate of Morale, Welfare and Recreation programs.

Registration for the 12-hour endurance ride will be from 7-7:45 a.m. Saturday. Fees are \$30 for male and female solo competitors, \$30 per team member for team competition

and \$30 for military team competition, open to active duty military only.

Racers in the endurance category must be at least 18 years-old.

Top female and male soloists will receive \$50, and trophies will be given to the top three in the male and female solo and team competitions.

Registration for the family fun ride will be from 9-9:45 a.m.

The cost is \$15 for those 11 years-old and older; \$10 for children between the ages of 7 and 10 years-old and children six and under ride free.

For more information, call Bill Browning at 791-6099 or Bill Wren at 791-2599.



Cameras In Action

Last year, U.S. Army driver Joe Nemechek celebrated a NASCAR Nextel Cup victory at Kansas Speedway.

Nemechek in Kansas

KANSAS CITY, Kan. – Joe Nemechek returns for the first time to the venue where he enjoyed the most thrilling weekend in his NASCAR career. The site is Kansas Speedway, host of this weekend's Nextel Cup and Busch Series double-header.

Last year Nemechek stormed the Kansas facility in history-making fashion. He became the first NASCAR driver to score the trifecta by winning the Nextel Cup race, the Busch Series race and the Nextel Cup pole.

"It was a dream weekend, I don't know how else to describe it," said Nemechek. "I was on a different cloud when I left Kansas last year. There's nothing like winning – an awesome feeling – and to do it twice in one weekend along with a pole made it extra, extra special."

Though Nemechek has not won since last October in Kansas, the U.S. Army Chevrolet driver feels he is overdue for another trip to Victory Lane.

The U.S. Army team is bringing one of its best cars in the MB2 Motorsports stable to Kansas. It's the same car that finished sixth and eighth at Michigan this season and also won the pole at the second Michigan event in August.

"I like the Michigan car. The first time I sat in it, I felt really comfortable," said Nemechek.

With seven races remaining in the Nextel Cup season, Nemechek says he needs to begin a streak of good finishes in order to achieve the team's goal of finishing in 11th place, the highest finish attainable for a non-Chase driver.

Entering Kansas, Nemechek is 15th in the point standings. He is 48 points behind 14th-place Dale Jarrett and 99 away from 11th.



File photo

At last year's Tour de Fort, participants begin their 12-hour arduous journey as spectators cheer. This year's endurance race is Saturday.

| Flag football standings | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------|--|--|---|---|-----------------------|--|--|---|---|-----------------------|--|
| As of Oct. 6 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Teams | | | W | L | Teams | | | W | L | Teams | |
| Blue Division | | | | | White Division | | | | | Women's Division | |
| 31st Intel Squadron | | | 9 | 2 | Co. A, 447th Sig. Bn. | | | 8 | 4 | Co. B, 551st Sig. Bn. | |
| Co. A, 67th Sig. Bn. | | | 9 | 2 | Co. B, 442nd Sig. Bn. | | | 6 | 3 | 31st Intel Squadron | |
| Navy IOC | | | 9 | 2 | | | | | | Co. B, 551st Sig. Bn. | |
| 252nd Sig. Co. | | | 5 | 7 | 206th Mil. Int. | | | 8 | 1 | EAMC | |
| EAMC | | | 6 | 6 | DENTAC | | | 9 | 0 | Navy IOC | |
| RNCOA | | | 3 | 8 | Co. A, 73rd Ord. Bn. | | | 7 | 3 | Co. C, 73rd Ord. Bn. | |
| Co. A, 551st Sig. Bn. | | | 7 | 4 | 35th MP Det. | | | 3 | 6 | Co. D, 551st Sig. Bn. | |
| Co. B, 67th Sig. Bn. | | | 1 | 9 | Co. B, 73rd Ord. Bn. | | | 2 | 8 | | |
| HHC, 93rd Sig. Bde. | | | 3 | 9 | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | Morning Division | | | | | | |
| | | | | | Co. C, 73rd Ord. Bn. | | | 3 | 1 | | |
| | | | | | Co. D, 551st Sig. Bn. | | | 3 | 2 | | |

Spectrum



Photos by Kristy Davies

Pre-kindergarten students from Evans Elementary School line up to look at a fire engine flashing its lights during a tour of the Fort Gordon Fire Department Wednesday.

BURNING for knowledge

Kristy Davies
Signal staff

Big red fire engines, bulky fire fighting outfits and spraying water were just a few of the highlights pre-kindergarten students from Evans Elementary and Greenbrier Elementary schools learned about during a tour of the Fort Gordon Fire Department Wednesday.

The tour was orchestrated by Fort Gordon firefighter Charles Puig, who has a young son, Bradley, attending pre-k at Evans.

About 40 children took over the fire station during the tour. "They take field trips throughout the year and I asked if they could come to the station," said Puig. "Little kids like fire stations and it allows them to come see what we do."

Knowing his son was coming to the fire station with his class and would be able to show off what his father does for a

living, Puig knew Bradley would be excited.

"I know he's excited because his dad's here and all the other firefighters that he knows," said Puig. "He'll probably teach his schoolmates what does what on the fire engine because (he already knows)."

The field trip to the fire station was coincidentally scheduled during fire prevention and safety week.

"We did fire prevention and safety at Freedom Park Elementary on Monday and Tuesday," said Joseph Hamm, Fort Gordon Fire Department fire inspector. "They parked the (fire) truck in the fire lane in front of the school where the kids come out. Then one firefighter shows them the fire truck and the other one suits up. When they pass through we give them a packet on fire safety."

"The theme for this year's

fire safety is use candles with care and blow out when you go out," added Hamm. "We get a lot of candle fires (here) in the barracks and housing."

"Don't use them near things that can catch on fire like curtains or blankets, keep them out of the reach of kids and animals, and before you throw it away make sure the fire is out," advised Hamm.

The visit to the fire station included watching a fire safety video, discussion of the parts of the fire engines, a display of a fireman suited up in full bunker gear, lights and siren display, equipment display and a demonstration of a portable master stream from a fire hydrant.

"They look like monsters," said four-year-old Jack Adkins, a pre-k student at Evans, about the firefighters suited up. "(My favorite part) was watching the movie and the firefighters rescued the house."



Children in Angela Hobby's pre-kindergarten class at Evans Elementary School watch as Charles Puig, a firefighter at Fort Gordon Fire Dept., suits up in his bunker gear.



The pre-k students from both Evans Elementary School and Greenbrier Elementary School watch a portable master stream demonstration from a distance.



(Above) Hunter Hawkins, 4 years old, giggles as he examines one of the firefighter gloves. (Right) The pre-k students from Greenbrier Elementary watch intently as firefighter Charles Puig shows that a suited up firefighter is nothing to fear.

